

City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Office of the City Manager

Telephone: (301) 891-7100
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7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Media Advisory

TAKOMA PARK GOES “BACK TO THE TAP”; BANS SINGLE SERVE WATER BOTTLES

Contacts: *Mayor Bruce Williams* **240-676-6234**
Communications Manager Lonni Moffet: 301-891-7118

TAKOMA PARK, Md., April 22, 2008 – The Takoma Park City Council, on April 21, 2008, passed a resolution banning the City government from purchasing single serve water bottles. The City also seeks to encourage organizers of public events, businesses, families and individuals in Takoma Park to seek and use sources of drinking water other than bottled water.

Mayor Bruce Williams stated, “The use of water bottles has skyrocketed since the mid-1970s, and the manufacturing, transportation, and consumption of water in single serve containers has an enormous negative impact on the environment through use of fossil fuel required for manufacturing, packaging, and transportation. These bottles add to the cost of recycling, and often don’t get recycled, requiring additional landfill space. Bottled water is way more expensive than tap water and often may in fact be tap water. It is also more expensive than gasoline, even at today’s prices. The City wanted, on the eve of Earth Day, to take one small step as we all must, to protect our environmental resources.”

Effective immediately, “the City shall cease purchasing drinking water in single-serve, disposable containers less than one gallon in size”.

Takoma Park joins numerous other cities which have banned or limited government purchase of single-serve water bottles, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, Michigan and the State of

Illinois. These and other local government agencies are often part of larger campaigns, such as Corporate Accountability International's "Think Outside the Bottle" or the US Conference of Mayors "Back to the Tap" resolution signed by over 1100 cities.

A copy of the resolution is attached. Background material for the April 21, 2008 discussion may be viewed online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/index.html>

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